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KENNEDY SHOT FROM BACK, DOCTOR SAYS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Independent tests confirmed the Warren Commission's finding that President John F. Kennedy was shot from the back and not the front, a New York City physician said Wednesday.

The findings of Dr. John K. Lattimer contradict the publicly stated belief of Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D-Va.), chairman of the House Assassination Committee, that Kennedy was shot from the front.

Tuesday night, Downing signed about 10 subpoenas to be issued in connection with his committee's investigation of the Kennedy slaying and that of Dr. Martin Luther King, a spokesman said.

Downing bases his belief that Kennedy was shot from the front on a film of the assassination that shows Kennedy being jolted violently backward and to the left at the moment he is shot. The Warren Commission said the bullet was fired by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Downing contends the backward motion indicates the bullet struck Kennedy in the front, meaning a second assassin was present in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

But Lattimer, chairman of the urology department at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, showed films of experiments he conducted by firing a rifle identical to the one used by Oswald into the back of an animal skull. Each time the shot produced the same backward motion seen in the film of the Kennedy assassination.

That motion was the result of a jet recoil effect caused by the explosion of the entire right front of Kennedy's head, Lattimer told a National Press Club luncheon.

Lattimer's findings parallel those of government physicians who reexamined the Kennedy autopsy materials. Lattimer was the first nongovernment physician to be given access to the autopsy materials.

Bellow Chosen to Give Lecture

CHICAGO (AP)—Saul Bellow, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, has been chosen to deliver the 1977 Jefferson lecture of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the agency's chairman, Dr. Ronald S. Berman, announced Wednesday.